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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Juergen DICKMANN, Moheb MEKHAIEL and Michael SKUTEK

Confirm. No. **8976**

Art Unit: **3612**

Appln. No.: **10/779,454**

Filed: **February 13, 2004**

For: **DOOR AREA MONITORING DEVICE FOR MONITORING THE SWING AREA OF AN AUTOMOBILE VEHICLE DOOR**

Attorney Docket No.: **3926.063**

Customer No.: **000041288**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the following documents for the above-identified application. The documents were cited in the specification of the application and are provided herewith.

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,458,446
2. German Patent No. 101 17 516 A1
3. German Patent No. 196 26 097 C1
4. German Patent No. 41 19 579 A1

Document 1

Document 1 is in the English language. In Document 1, the distance to a potential collection object is determined by monitoring the delay time of reflected ultrasonic pulses.

Document 2

Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to Document 2. The device includes sensors which monitor the door swing area, an evaluation unit which evaluates the sensor data, and a control unit which controls of the components of the door area monitoring device. The sensors are radar sensors, which sense and monitor a defined area adjacent the vehicle doors. These sensors are typically micro-strip antennas, which are of considerable size.

Document 3

Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to Document 3, other than an English language abstract of a reference in the patent family: WO9800746 A1. Document 3 discloses a system for displaying an image on a large screen projection surface by means of a digital micro-mirror device (DMD) projector having a DMD-chip. The DMD-chip is also referred to as a micro-mirror unit. The micro-mirror unit typically comprises a chip, upon the surface of which multiple thousand of small controllable micro-mirrors are provided. By changing the orientation of the individual mirrors an image is produced, which is projected through lenses onto the large screen projection

surface. Each micro-mirror thus projects reflected incident light onto an image point of the large screen projection surface. Therein, by an appropriate control of the respective micro-mirror, it is ensured that a color mixture is produced as necessary for the representation of the individual image points. The color mixing is accomplished in that the respective micro-mirrors always project for an appropriate length of time a light beam upon the position of the projection surface, so long as the corresponding color beam is offered to it through the color filter. Therein the tipping or deflection of the micro-mirror is precisely directed to the target, and controlled both spatially as well as in length of time, that the image information to be depicted is transmitted precisely.

Document 4

Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to Document 4. Document 4 discloses a device for detecting objects in obscured areas of a vehicle, using a contactless distance measuring device directed in the area outside the field of view (blind-spot), which works on the principle of ultrasound, infrared or radar. In the case of detection of an object approaching the vehicle door, that is, in the area monitored by the distance monitoring device, a door brake is activated. The distance measuring device is provided in the door.

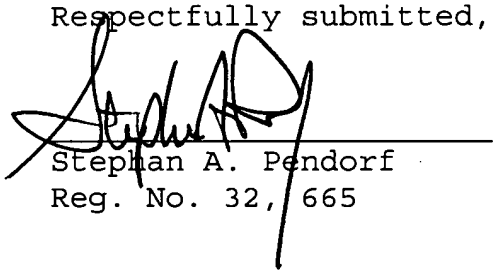
U.S. PATENT APPLICATION
SERIAL NO.: 10/779,454 ATTY DOCK: 3926.063
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after three months from the application's filing date but before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, therefore no Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedated or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,



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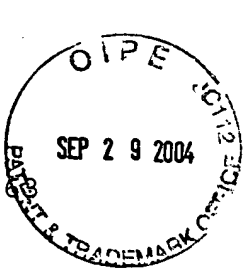
Dated: **September 27, 2004**

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION
SERIAL NO.: 10/779,454 ATTY DOCK: 3926.06
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Form PTO-1449, including four (4) documents, for U.S. Application No. 10/779,454 filed February 13, 2004, were deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **September 27, 2004.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.

Stephan A. Pendorf

PTO/SB/08a (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as man sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

	Complete If Known
Application Number	**10/779,454**
Filing Date	**February 13, 2004**
First Named Inventor	**DICKMANN et al.**
Art Unit	**3612**
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket No.	**3926.063**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Document Number Number-Kind Code[2] (If Known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-4,458,446	7/10/1984	Mochida et al.	
		US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Country Code[3] Number[5] (If known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		D101 17 516 A1	7/7/2001	Busse, Gerald		
		D196 26 097 C1	6/28/1996	Lockmann, Klaus		
		DE 41 19 579 A1	6/14/1991	Weishaupt, Walter		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.